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Proceedings
OF THE
Second Conference
OF THE
Joint Committee on Church Union
REPRESENTING THE
Presbyterian, Methodist and
Congregational Churches
TOGETHER WITH THE
Reports of the Sub-Committees as Adopted
by the Joint Committee

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Toronto, February, 1906



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**Report of the Second Conference of the Pres-
byterian, Methodist and Congregational
Committees on Church Union**

Held in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, on Wednesday and
Thursday, 20th and 21st December, 1905

THE Joint Union Committee assembled in the Lecture Room of the Metropolitan Methodist Church, Toronto, on the morning of Wednesday, December 20th, at ten o'clock.

In the lamented absence of the former Chairman, who had been removed by death, the Committee was called to order by the Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Sutherland. The hymn beginning,

"O God of Bethel, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed,"

was sung, after which the Rev. E. D. McLaren, D.D., read the first chapter of First Corinthians, and the Rev. Dr. MacGillivray and the Rev. J. K. Unsworth led in prayer. A second hymn was sung, and prayer was offered by the Rev. Principal Sparling, of Winnipeg, and the Rev. President Forrest, of Halifax.

On motion of the Rev. Principal Patrick, seconded by Rev. Hugh Pedley, the Rev. Dr. Carman was unanimously called to the chair, after which the following minute referring to the death of the late Dr. Warden, was moved by the Rev. Hugh Pedley, of Montreal, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Sutherland, of Toronto, and unanimously adopted by a standing vote:

"We, the members of the Joint Committee on Union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches, hereby place on record our deep sense of loss to this Union movement caused by the death of the Rev. Dr. Warden.

"From its inception until the very last day of his life, he gave to it not only his warmest sympathy, but also his careful attention to all the practical and far-reaching aspects of this momentous question. In his capacity as Chairman of the first meeting of this Committee he

was, as we all remember, in every way a model of wisdom, courtesy and firm guiding of the deliberations. Had he been spared to continue with us we are persuaded that the value of his counsel would have become more and more apparent as the negotiations passed from the realm of general considerations to that of particular details. We are convinced that here we shall, to a very special degree, miss the presence of one who in his own church affairs, as well as in the conduct of the Union negotiations, proved himself to be, in the very highest sense of the term, a Christian statesman.

"Dr. Warden was one whose Christian character was such as to win the esteem and respect of all who knew him, and his death will be a great loss not only to the Presbyterian Church, of which he was a devoted servant and distinguished leader, but also to the cause of Christ at large.

"To the bereaved family we extend our deepest sympathy, and we pray that the God of all comfort will be their strength and consolation."

It was further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of the deceased minister.

On motion of the Rev. Hugh Pedley, the name of the Rev. T. B. Hyde was substituted for that of the Rev. F. J. Day, as one of the Associate Secretaries, the latter being out of the country.

On motion of Principal Patrick, the arrangement of last year was reaffirmed, namely, that the secretaries furnish the press with reports of the Committee's proceedings for publication.

The Chairman addressed the Committee, outlining the present position of the Union question so far as the acts of the Committee and of the different Church Courts are concerned.

On motion, the name of the Rev. Professor Kilpatrick, who had been appointed on the Presbyterian delegation in place of the late Principal Caven, was added to the Committee on Doctrine.

On motion, the Secretaries of the Denominational Committees were requested to furnish the Secretaries of this Committee with information as to any changes that have taken place in the personnel of the various delegations. The Sub-Committees were authorized to fill vacancies in their numbers.

Reports of Sub-Committees were called for and presented as follows :

CHANCELLOR BURWASH submitted an interim report from the Committee on Doctrine, which was received.

HON. JUSTICE MACLAREN reported verbally for the Committee on Polity that some progress had been made, but a definite report was, to some extent, contingent on the action of the Committee on Doctrine. A written report would be presented at a later stage.

PRINCIPAL PATRICK, Convener of the Committee on the Ministry, reported verbally that the Committee had been divided into three sections to consider different aspects of the question, and would report later.

MR. C. D. MASSEY reported that no meeting of the Committee on Administration had yet been held, as not much could be done till some other Committees reported.

MR. PATERSON, on behalf of the Committee on Law, presented an interim report, which was received.

It was resolved that when this joint Committee adjourns, it stand adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

Ordered, that on the adjournment of this Committee, the Sub-Committees meet in separate session at two o'clock, and continue during the afternoon and evening, as may be found necessary, with the view of reporting to the Joint Committee to-morrow morning.

On motion the Committee adjourned, with the benediction by Principal Gordon.

DECEMBER 31st, 1905

The Joint Committee resumed at nine o'clock. The Scriptures were read by Dr. E. D. McLaren and the Rev. Mr. Mullan, and the Rev. S. Bond led in prayer.

On motion the name of Mr. H. P. Moore, of the Methodist delegation, was added to the Committee on Administration.

The roll was called and the following members were found to be in attendance :

Presbyterian.—Revs. Principal Patrick, Prof. Bryce, Dr. DuVal, Dr. J. L. Murray, Dr. Battisby, Dr. Somerville, W. J. Clark, J. B. Mullan, W. A. J. Martin, Dr. Lyle, J. H. Ratcliffe, Principal McLaren, Dr. R. P. McKay, Dr. Milligan, Dr. E. D. McLaren, Prof. Kilpatrick, Principal Gordon, Dr. M. MacGillivray, Dr. James Stewart, J. Hay, Dr. Armstrong, Dr. D. M. Ramsay, Principal Scrimger, Dr. R. Campbell, President Forrest, Principal Falconer, Dr. Sedgwick, Dr. E. D. Millar, James Ross, J. A. Macdonald, R. Murray, LL.D., Hon. J. D. McGregor, Hon. C. H. Campbell, Professor W. C. Murray, Judge Forbes, Messrs. J. A. Paterson, W. B. McMurrich, A. G. Farrell, D. Morrice, W. Paul, Professor Dyde.

Methodist.—Rev. Drs. Carman, Sutherland, Rose, Principal Sparling, J. W., Wilson, W. F., Heartz, Principal Shaw, Potts, Briggs, Griffin, Crews, Chancellor Burwash, Chown, S. D., Cleaver, Woodsworth, J., Griffith, Curtis, Antliff, Crothers, Henderson, W. C., Ross, Williamson, Gundy, Stewart, A., Langford, Paisley; Revs. Steele, Mavety, Pitcher, Stacey, Bond, G.; Messrs. Flavelle, Judge Chesley, Dr. Inch, Dr. Allison, Chipman, Fudger, Massey, Justice Maclaren, Rowell, McLaughlin, Birge, Gurney, Moore, H. P., Ferguson, J. W., Mann, Aikins, J. A. M., Brown, R., Lake.

Congregational.—Revs. Pedley, H., Daley, Hill, Pedley, J. W., Unsworth, Dr. Warriner, Gerrie, Gunn, Hamilton, Hyde, McIntosh, W., O'Hara, H.

The REV. DR. E. D. McLAREN reported letters from the Rev. Dr. Fletcher, of Hamilton; Rev. Dr. Mowatt, of Montreal; Rev. Dr. Ryckman, of Almonte; Rev. Dr. White, of New Westminster, B.C.; Rev. Dr. Carr, of Campbellton, N.B.; Rev. Dr. Evans, of Hampton, N.B.; Rev. T. Stewart, of Dartmouth, N.S.; Rev. A. T. Love, of Quebec; William Whyte, Esq., and A. Wickson, Esq., of Winnipeg; G. M. Macdonell, Esq., K.C., of Kingston, and T. B. Macaulay, Esq., of Montreal, expressing interest in the work of the Committee and regret at being unable to attend.

REV. CHANCELLOR BURWASH stated that the Sub-Committee on Doctrine was prepared to report on thirteen out of nineteen Articles under consideration.

The REV. DR. RAMSAY read the report of the Sub-Committee on Doctrine, and on motion the report was received.

The report of the Sub-Committee on Polity was read by PROFESSOR MURRAY, and on motion was received.

The REV. DR. J. S. ROSS read an interim report from the Sub-Committee on the Ministry, and the same was received.

On motion it was ordered that when the Joint Committee adjourns it stand adjourned till two o'clock in the afternoon.

The Sub-Committee on the Ministry was allowed to retire to complete its work.

Conversation took place respecting the Basis of Doctrine and the relation of the Ministry thereto, and the report of the Sub-Committee on the Ministry was finally referred back for further consideration.

The Joint Committee then adjourned.

The Joint Committee resumed at two o'clock p.m., and was opened with devotional services.

The REV. CHANCELLOR BURWASH read a further report from the Committee on Doctrine, which was received.

REV. DR. J. S. ROSS read report No. 2 of the Sub-Committee on the Ministry. On motion the report was received.

REV. DR. E. D. McLAREN reported further action by the Sub-Committee on Administration, recommending that said Committee be authorized to forward the detailed information, it has arranged to procure, to the denominational Union Committees for transmission to their Supreme Courts.

The Joint Committee then adjourned till half-past four o'clock, to allow the denominational committees to meet separately.

Joint Committee resumed at half-past four o'clock, Rev. Dr. Carman in the chair. Prayer was offered by Rev. Principal McLaren.

REV. PRINCIPAL PATRICK reported on behalf of the Presbyterian Section that they had carefully considered the report of the Sub-Committee on Doctrine, and found nothing therein that would be a bar to further negotiations for union.

REV. DR. PAISLEY reported from the Methodist Section that the report of the Sub-Committee on Doctrine was accepted in substance as a basis for further action toward union. As to Section 2 of the report on Polity, attention is called to the practice of the Methodist Church under which all ministers in the active work, also superannuated and supernumerary ministers, are members of the Annual Conference. The remaining items of report on Polity were accepted as to substance, also report No. 2 on the Ministry.

REV. HUGH PEDLEY, on behalf of the Congregational Section, reported that they saw no reason why they should not proceed with further negotiations.

REV. DR. RAMSAY called attention to Article XVI. of the report on Doctrine from which a sentence had been accidentally omitted, namely the words, "that Jesus Christ as the Supreme Head of the Church has appointed a ministry of the Word therein, and calls men to this ministry." Also in the last line of the same Article, "shall" should be substituted for "may."

The Committee adjourned to meet again at eight o'clock.

The Joint Committee resumed at eight p.m., Dr. Carman in the chair. Rev. J. Tallman Pitcher led in prayer.

On call for reports of Committees, the REV. PRINCIPAL PATRICK reported that the Presbyterian Section had held further conference, had considered all the remaining reports of the Sub-Committees, and, as in the case of the report on Doctrine, saw nothing to hinder further negotiations for a union of the churches.

It was then moved by Rev. Principal Scrimger, seconded by Rev. Principal Shaw, and carried unanimously,

"That this Joint Committee, having received the reports of the various Sub-Committees as to Doctrine, Polity, the Ministry, Administration and Law, and all the reports of the various denominational Committees, rejoices to find the substantial unity existing among the negotiating churches, and feels encouraged to continue further negotiations for union."

On further motion it was ordered that the Minutes of this meeting be printed, embodying the reports of the various Sub-Committees, and that the same be transmitted to the Supreme Courts or highest bodies of the churches through their committees.

It was further ordered that the Secretaries give the widest publicity through the press to the findings of this Joint Committee as expressed in the reports of the various Sub-Committees.

The Conference closed with prayer and the benediction, after which the Committee adjourned.

The following is a list of the various Sub-Committees :

DOCTRINE

Presbyterian.—Principal Scrimger (Convener), Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Battisby, Rev. G. S. Carson, Dr. DuVal, Principal Falconer, Principal Gordon, Dr. MacKay, Dr. J. L. Murray, Principal McLaren, Professor Kilpatrick, Dr. Ramsay, Dr. Sedgwick, Rev. T. Stewart, Hon. W. M. Clark, Dr. Robert Murray and Mr. Walter Paul.

Methodist.—Chancellor Burwash (Convener), Rev. Drs. Carman, Shaw, Paisley, Langford, Curtis, Stewart, Antliff, Crothers, Ryckman, Revs. F. B. Stacey, D. W. Johnston and S. Bond, and Messrs. Ames, Ferguson and Mann.

Congregational.—Rev. Dr. Warriner (Convener), Revs. F. J. Day, J. P. Gerrie, T. B. Hyde, Hugh Pedley, J. K. Unsworth and Messrs. J. R. Dougall and H. O'Hara.

N. BURWASH, *Chairman.*

D. M. RAMSAY, } *Secretaries.*
T. B. HYDE, }

POLITY

Presbyterian.—Prof. Walter C. Murray (Convener), Rev. Drs. Bryce, Campbell, Farquharson, Herridge, Lyle, MacGillivray, Millar, Rev. J. B. Mullan, Principal Patrick, Dr. James Stewart, and Messrs. James Gibson, T. C. James, J. A. Macdonald, G. M. Macdonell and W. B. McMurrich.

Methodist.—Justice Maclaren (Convener), Rev. Drs. Carman, White, Crews, Griffith; Revs. Mavety, Steel, Langille, and Messrs. Harris, Dr. Inch, Fudger, Bishop, Bell, Aikins, Senator Cox and Justice Britton.

Congregational.—Rev. J. W. Pedley (Convener), Revs. F. J. Day, J. L. Gordon, W. T. Gunn, W. H. Warriner, D.D., and Messrs. J. R. Dougall, T. B. Macaulay and H. O'Hara.

JOHN J. MACLAREN, }
JAMES W. PEDLEY, } *Chairmen.*
WALTER C. MURRAY, }
SAMUEL LYLE, *Secretary.*

THE MINISTRY

Presbyterian.—Principal Patrick (Convener), Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Carr, Rev. W. L. Clay, Rev. W. J. Clark, Principal Falconer, Dr. Fletcher, Rev. J. Hay, Dr. Herdman, Rev. T. C. Jack, Rev. A. T. Love, Dr. Milligan, Principal Scrimger, Prof. Hyde, Hon. D. Laird and Mr. J. K. Macdonald.

Methodist.—Rev. Dr. Ryckman (Convener), Rev. Drs. Henderson, Rose, Gundy, Cleaver, Williamson, Ross, Pitcher, Woodsworth, Potts, Heartz, Wilson, and Messrs. Hall, Birge, and Chipman.

Congregational.—Rev. J. K. Unsworth (Convener), Revs. G. W. Ball, J. P. Gerrie, W. T. Gunn, D. S. Hamilton, Principal Hill, A. W. Main and Mr. B. W. Robertson.

W. PATRICK, *Chairman.*
J. S. ROSS, *Secretary.*

ADMINISTRATION

Presbyterian.—Rev. Dr. Somerville (Convener), Dr. Carmichael, Principal Forrest, Principal Gordon, Rev. W. A. J. Martin, Dr. Mowatt, Dr. E. D. McLaren, Dr. McMillan, Rev. J. H. Ratcliffe, Rev. James Ross, Dr. Smith, and Hon. C. H. Campbell, Senator McGregor, Mr. David Morrice and Mr. W. Whyte.

Methodist.—C. D. Massey (Convener), Rev. Drs. Briggs, Sutherland, Potts, Huestis, Griffin, Chown, Sparling, Evans, and Messrs. Allison, Hunt, Ashdown, Gurney, Flavell, Holmes, Denton and Moore.

Congregational.—Rev. Wm. McIntosh (Convener), Revs. J. L. Gordon, Principal Hill, T. B. Hyde, J. W. Pedley, and Messrs. C. R. Black, T. B. Caldwell, M. P., and A. McA. Murphy.

J. SOMERVILLE, *Chairman.*

E. D. McLAREN, *Secretary.*

LAW

Presbyterian.—Hon. C. H. Campbell (Convener), Mr. A. G. Farrell, Judge Forbes, Mr. W. B. McMurrich, Mr. J. A. Paterson and Dr. Sedgwick.

Methodist.—N. W. Rowell, K.C. (Convener), Judge Chesley and Messrs. Aikins, Cate, Harris and McLaughlin.

Congregational.—Rev. J. T. Daley (Convener), and Messrs. Charles Cushing and S. P. Leet.

N. W. ROWELL, *Chairman.*

J. A. PATERSON, *Secretary.*

The reports of these Sub-Committees as adopted by the Joint Committee are appended hereto.

A. SUTHERLAND,	} <i>Secretaries.</i>
T. B. HYDE,	
E. D. McLAREN,	

Reports of the Sub-Committees

1.—Report of the Sub-Committee on Doctrine

ARTICLE I.—*Of God.*—We believe in the one only living and true God, who is a Spirit and the Father of our spirits ; infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being and perfections ; the Lord Almighty, most just in all His ways, most glorious in holiness, unsearchable in wisdom and plenteous in mercy, full of love and compassion, and abundant in goodness and truth. We worship Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in one Godhead, one in substance and equal in power and glory.

ARTICLE II.—*Of Revelation.*—We believe that God is revealed in part in nature, in history and in the heart of man ; that He has made gracious and clearer revelations of Himself to men of God who spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit ; and that Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. We gratefully receive the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testament, given by inspiration, to be the faithful record of God's gracious revelations and the sure witness to Christ, as the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and life.

ARTICLE III.—*Of the Divine Purpose.*—We believe that the eternal, wise, holy and loving purpose of God embraces all events, so that while the freedom of man is not taken away, nor is God the author of sin, yet in His providence He makes all things work together in the fulfilment of His sovereign design and the manifestation of His glory.

ARTICLE IV.—*Of Creation and Providence.*—We believe that God is the creator, upholder and governor of all things ; that He is above all His works and in them all ; and that He made man in His own image, meet for fellowship with Him, free and able to choose between good and evil, and forever responsible to His Maker and Lord.

ARTICLE V.—*Of the Sin of Man.*—We believe that our first parents, being tempted, chose evil, and so fell away from God and came under the power of sin, the penalty of which is eternal death ; and we confess that, by reason of this disobedience, we and all men are born

with a sinful nature, that we have broken God's law and that no man can be saved but by His grace.

ARTICLE VI.—*Of the Grace of God.*—We believe that God, out of His great love for the world, has given His only begotten Son to be the Saviour of sinners, and in the Gospel freely offers His all-sufficient salvation to all men. We believe also that God, from the beginning, in His own good pleasure, gave to His Son a people, an innumerable multitude, chosen in Christ unto holiness, service and salvation.

ARTICLE VII.—*Of the Lord Jesus Christ.*—We believe in and confess the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and man, who, being the Eternal Son of God, for us men and for our salvation became truly man, being conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary, without sin; unto us He has revealed the Father, by His Word and Spirit making known the perfect will of God; for us He fulfilled all righteousness and satisfied eternal justice, offering Himself a perfect sacrifice upon the cross to take away the sin of the world; for us He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, where He ever intercedes for us; in our hearts, joined to Him by faith, He abides forever as the indwelling Christ; above us and over us all, for us He rules; wherefore, unto Him we render love, obedience and adoration as our Prophet, Priest and King forever.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Of the Holy Spirit.*—We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who moves everywhere upon the hearts of men, to restrain them from evil and to incite them unto good, and whom the Father is ever willing to give unto all who ask Him. We believe that He has spoken by holy men of God in making known His truth to men for their salvation; that, through our exalted Saviour, He was sent forth in power to convict the world of sin, to enlighten men's minds in the knowledge of Christ, and to persuade and enable them to obey the call of the Gospel; and that He abides with the Church, dwelling in every believer as the spirit of truth, of holiness, and of comfort.

ARTICLE IX.—*Of Faith and Repentance.*—We believe that faith in Christ is a saving grace whereby we receive Him, trust in Him and rest upon Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the Gospel, and that this saving faith is always accompanied by repentance, wherein we confess and forsake our sins with full purpose of, and endeavor after, a new obedience to God.

ARTICLE X.—Of Justification and Sonship.—We believe that God pardons our sins and accepts us as righteous solely on the ground of the perfect obedience and sacrifice of Christ, received by faith alone, and that believers are adopted as sons of God, with a right to all the privileges therein implied, including a conscious assurance of their sonship.

ARTICLE XI.—Of Regeneration.—We believe in the necessity of regeneration, whereby we are made new creatures in Christ Jesus by the Spirit of God, who imparts spiritual life by a secret and wonderful operation of His power, using as the ordinary means the truths of His word and the ordinances of Divine appointment in ways agreeable to the nature of man.

ARTICLE XII.—Sanctification.—We believe that those who are regenerated and justified grow in sanctified character, through fellowship with Christ, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and obedience to the truth ; that a holy life is the fruit and evidence of saving faith ; and that the believer's hope of continuance in such a life is in the preserving grace of God.

And we believe that in this growth in grace Christians may attain to a full assurance of faith, and to that maturity of faith working by love which the Scriptures call the love of God made perfect in us.

ARTICLE XIII.—Of the Law of God.—We believe that the law of God, revealed in the Ten Commandments, and more clearly disclosed in the words of Christ, is forever established in truth and equity, so that no human work shall abide except it be built on this foundation. We believe that God requires of every man to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God ; and that only through this harmony with the will of God shall be fulfilled that brotherhood of man wherein the kingdom of God is to be made manifest.

ARTICLE XIV.—Of the Church.—We acknowledge one holy catholic Church, the innumerable company of saints of every age and nation, who being united by the Holy Spirit to Christ their head, are one body in Him, and have communion with their Lord and with one another ; further, we receive it as the will of Christ that His Church on earth should exist as a visible and sacred brotherhood, consisting of those who profess faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him with their children, and organized for the confession of His name, for the public worship of God, for the administration of sacraments, for the

upbuilding of the saints ; and for the universal propagation of the Gospel ; and we acknowledge as a part more or less pure of this universal brotherhood every particular Church throughout the world which professes this faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him as Divine Lord and Saviour.

ARTICLE XV.—*Of the Sacraments.*—We acknowledge Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the two sacraments instituted by Christ, to be of perpetual obligation as signs and seals of the covenant ratified in His precious blood, and as means of grace through the observance of which His Church is to confess her Lord and be visibly distinguished from the rest of the world.

(1) Baptism with water into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost is the sacrament which implies our relation to the covenant of grace and our consecration to the Christian life, and typifies our union to Christ and regeneration of the Spirit and the washing away of our sins. The proper subjects of baptism are believers, and infants presented by their parents or guardians in the Christian faith. In the latter case the parents should promise to train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and the Church is under the most solemn obligation to provide for their Christian instruction.

(2) The Lord's Supper is the sacrament of communion with Christ and with His people, in which bread and wine are given and received in thankful remembrance of Him and His sacrifice on the cross, and which they who in faith receive the same do, after a spiritual manner, partake of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ to their comfort, nourishment and growth in grace. All those may be admitted to the Lord's Supper who make a credible profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and obedience to His law, and are free from scandal and open sin.

ARTICLE XVI.—*Of the Ministry.*—We believe that Jesus Christ, as the Supreme Head of the Church, has appointed a ministry of the word therein, and calls men to this ministry ; that the Church, under the guidance of the Spirit of Christ, recognizes and chooses those whom He calls, and who shall be thereupon officially set apart to the work of the ministry.

ARTICLE XVII.—*Of Church Order and Fellowship.*—We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the sole Head of the Church ; that its worship, teaching, discipline and government should be administered according to His will by officers chosen for their fitness and duly set apart to their office ; and, although the visible Church may contain unworthy members and is liable to err, yet believers ought not lightly to separate themselves from its communion, but are to live in fellowship with their brethren, which fellowship is to be extended as God gives opportunity to all who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

ARTICLE XVIII.—*Of the Resurrection, the Last Judgment, and the Future Life.*—We believe that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust, through the power of the Son of God, who shall come to judge the quick and the dead ; that the finally impenitent shall suffer eternal death, and the righteous shall abide in blessedness forever with God.

ARTICLE XIX.—*Of Christian Service and the Final Triumph.*—We believe that it is our duty, as servants and friends of Christ, to do good unto all men, to maintain the public and private worship of God, to hallow the Lord's Day, to preserve the inviolability of marriage and the sanctity of the family, to uphold the just authority of the State and so to live in all honesty, purity and charity that our lives shall testify of Christ. We joyfully receive the word of Christ, bidding His people go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, and declare unto them that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, that He will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. We confidently believe that by His power and grace all His enemies shall be finally overcome, and the kingdoms of this world shall be made the kingdom of our God and of His Christ.

N. BURWASH,

Chairman.

D. M. RAMSAY,

T. B. HYDE,

Secretaries.

2.—Report of the Sub-Committee on Polity

Your Committee submit the following recommendations, which were passed unanimously, as indications of the lines along which they believe it possible to frame a polity for a Church to be formed by the union of the three negotiating denominations :

(1) That the local affairs of the individual church, charge, circuit or congregation be managed by local boards, sessions or committees, subject to the general legislation, principles and discipline of the united Church, and that such boards, sessions or committees be constituted and elected or appointed as at present, or elected at the option of such church, charge, circuit or congregation ; and, further, that the formulation of a plan for the organization of new charges be left to the General Assembly of the united Church, which plan may at any time be adopted by any church, charge, circuit or congregation.

(2) That the present practices of the three negotiating denominations with respect to membership, church ordinances, Sunday Schools and young people's societies be sanctioned for these churches when united, and that all modifications be left to the General Assembly of the united Church.

(3) That the governing bodies of the Church to be formed by union be four in number ; that the names of the three highest be the General Assembly, the Annual Conference, and the District Council.

(The Presbyterian Committee expressed a desire that the names of the three governing bodies should be the General Conference, the Council, and the Presbytery.)

(4) That each of these governing bodies be composed of an equal number of ministers and laymen, to be chosen by the governing bodies below, the ministerial members of each Annual Conference to be the ministers on the rolls of the District Councils within its bounds.

(5) That the General Assembly meet every second year ; that its presiding officer be also the chief executive officer of the united Church ; and that during his term of office he be relieved of his pastoral duties.

(6) That the General Assembly have full power to legislate with respect to :

(a) The number and boundaries of the Annual Conferences.

(b) The qualifications for the ministry.

(c) Matters of doctrine, discipline, government and worship, subject to the condition that before any rule or law relative to these matters can become a permanent law it must receive the approval of a majority of either the Annual Conferences or District Councils.

(No recommendation was made as to which of these the proposed law or rule should be sent down.)

(7) That the General Assembly be the Supreme Court of Appeal for questions of law, and also for questions of fact on matters under its immediate administration, and that such matters of law and fact be submitted to a judicial committee for its consideration and report.

(Your Committee thought that the question of the administrative functions of the General Assembly should be dealt with by the Committee on Administration.)

(8) That the Annual Conferences be subordinate to the General Assembly; that they meet each year; that they have power to determine the bounds of the District Councils; that they hear and decide appeals subject to the privilege of appeal on questions of law to the General Assembly.

(Your Committee believe that the administrative functions of the Conference and its relation to the ministry should be dealt with by other committees.)

(9) That the District Councils be subordinate to the Annual Conferences; that they receive reports from and have oversight of individual churches or charges and mission stations.

Submitted by instruction of the Committee.

JOHN J. MACLAREN,
JAMES W. PEDLEY,
WALTER C. MURRAY,
Conveners.

SAMUEL LYLE,
Secretary.

3.—Report of the Sub-Committee on the Ministry

1. *Pastoral Office, including Term of Service.*—Recognizing the desirability of preserving the essence of both the settled pastorate and the itinerancy, this Committee is of the opinion that a harmony of both principles is possible, and that the best features of both systems may be retained. We therefore recommend as follows:

- (1) Pastoral service shall be without a time-limit.
- (2) Ministers on their own application, and a pastoral charge through its governing body, in writing, may, at the end of any one year, seek a change of pastoral relation by application to the Settlement Committee.
- (3) Any charge may extend an invitation to any properly qualified minister or ministers, but the right of appointment shall rest with the Settlement Committee.
- (4) There shall be Settlement Committees appointed for the various sections of the Church annually, whose duty it shall be to consider all applications from ministers or charges for settlements within the section over which they have jurisdiction.
- (5) The Settlement Committee shall be empowered, in the event of a vacancy occurring at any time, to make an appointment to such a vacancy for the current year, after consultation with the congregation.
- (6) The Settlement Committee shall also have authority to initiate correspondence with ministers and charges, with a view of completing arrangements to secure necessary and desirable settlements.
- (7) There shall be also a Committee on Transfers, which may be composed of the chief officer of the highest court of the Church, who shall be the convener and chairman of the Committee, together with the chairmen of the several sectional committees. This committee shall have authority to transfer ministers and probationers from one section to another in harmony with the plan outlined in sections 4, 5, 6.
- (8) It shall be the policy of the Church that every congregation shall have, as far as possible, a pastorate without interruption, and that every effective minister shall have a charge.

(9) It is suggested that members of the Settlement Committee shall be appointed by official bodies corresponding to the existing Synods, Conferences, or Unions.

(10) The minister in charge shall be the presiding officer of the governing body of each congregation within its pastoral charge.

On the subject of "Training for the Ministry," the Committee recommends as follows: That the attainment of a B.A. degree is desirable before a student enters upon the study of theology; but in cases where this is unattainable, that there be two alternative courses, constituted as follows, both starting from university matriculation:

- (1) three years at least in arts, followed by three years in theology;
- (2) two years under the supervision of a body corresponding to a District Meeting or Presbytery, with appropriate studies, and four years of a mixed arts and theological course in college.

Further, that no candidate be received for the ministry unless he has been first recommended by a body corresponding to a session, a quarterly board or a local church.

2. *The Relations of a Minister to the Doctrines of the Church.*—
The Committee recommends:

(1) That the duty of inquiry into the personal character, doctrinal beliefs and general fitness of candidates for the ministry shall be laid upon the District Council.

(2) Further, that candidates for ordination shall be asked the following questions:

(a) Do you believe yourself to be now a child of God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ? Do you believe yourself to be truly called to the office of the Christian ministry, and that your motives are zeal for the glory of God, love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and desire for the salvation of men?

(b) Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required for eternal salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ? And are you resolved out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing which is not agreeable thereto?

(c) Do you believe the statement of doctrine of the united Church, as you understand it, to be agreeable to the teaching of the Holy

Scriptures, and is your own personal faith in essential agreement therewith; and as a minister in this Church do you pledge adherence thereto?

(The Methodist Committee expressed a desire that the words "as you understand it" should be eliminated from sub-section (c) of section 2.)

W. PATRICK,
Chairman.
J. S. ROSS,
Secretary.

4.—Report of the Sub-Committee on Administration

Your Committee beg to report that, with the exception of the hurried meeting at the close of the union conference last year, no meeting of this Committee has been held until this afternoon, when an informal discussion took place of the methods of administration that obtain in the three negotiating churches. After a somewhat minute consideration of the principles upon which the various churches manage their missionary, educational, benevolent, publishing and other agencies, it was decided to report to the General Committee that while obstacles to the organic union of these three churches may have to be faced in connection with the questions of administration, this sub-committee believes they are not likely to prove more difficult than many that were successfully dealt with in former union movements, and can all be removed if approached in a spirit of mutual concession and with a due regard to existing interests.

Dr. E. D. McLaren, Dr. Chown and J. W. Pedley have been appointed to prepare for presentation to the General Committee at its next annual meeting a detailed report of the various agencies of the negotiating churches, and of the methods followed in their administration, and authority is hereby requested to forward their report (after it has been adopted by your Committee) to the denominational committees on Church Union, to be transmitted by them to their supreme courts.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Sub-Committee on Administration.

J. SOMERVILLE,
Chairman.
E. D. McLAREN,
Secretary.

5.—Report of the Sub-Committee on Law

1. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Your Committee begs to report that by various Acts of Parliament and Legislature, conveniently set forth down to the year 1879 in the compilation of public statutes relating to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, edited by ex-Chief Justice Sir Thomas W. Taylor, and continued thereafter throughout other statutes, complete and effectual provision is made for the titles of the various church and college properties belonging to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. In the opinion of your Committee it would not be at the present stage of any distinct advantage to enumerate or particularize the various details thereof.

2. METHODIST CHURCH.—Your Committee further reports that in respect to the Methodist Church, all churches, parsonages, college properties and connexional real estate properties are either duly vested in trustees upon trusts set forth in the "Union Act" of the Dominion Parliament, passed in 1884, and in effect adopted by all the Provincial Legislatures, or they are held by corporations controlled by the Methodist Church through its General Conference, and all are governed by appropriate legislation. Full particulars of these are in the hands of the secretary of your Committee.

3. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—Your Committee further reports that in respect to the Congregational Church, the majority of their church properties are held under what is known as a "Model Deed," which provides that they shall be continuously used for Congregational Church purposes, subject to the provisions of the "General Acts Respecting the Property of Religious Institutions." Others are held on special trusts relating to the individual churches. There are also other corporate bodies holding property for denominational purposes.

Your Committee would recommend generally that, should the main purposes and objects of the Union Committee be carried out and the proposed union effected, appropriate legislation, clearly identifying the several churches and vesting the titles on lines similar to those heretofore obtained by the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches respectively as set forth above, should be sought for from the Dominion Parliament and from the several Provincial Legislatures.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

N. W. ROWELL,
Chairman.

JOHN A. PATERSON,
Secretary of Committee.

Dated 10th December, 1905.